

## § 27.310

(3) In the engine room and any other area where background noise makes a general alarm hard to hear, has a supplemental flashing red light identified with a sign that reads:

### Attention

General Alarm—When Alarm Sounds or Flashes Go to Your Station.

(4) Is tested at least once each week.

(b) You or the operator may use a PA system or other means of alerting all persons on your towing vessel instead of a general alarm, if—

(1) The PA system is capable of notifying persons in any accommodation or work space or the engine room;

(2) It is tested at least once each week;

(3) It can be activated from the operating station; and

(4) It complies with paragraph (a)(3) of this section.

## § 27.310 What are the requirements for fire detection on a new towing vessel?

A fire-detection system must be installed on your vessel to detect engine room fires. You must ensure that—

(a) Detectors, control units, and fire alarms are approved under 46 CFR subpart 161.002, or are listed by an independent testing laboratory;

(b) The system is installed, tested, and maintained per the manufacturer's design manual;

(c) The system is arranged and installed so a fire in the engine room automatically sets off alarms on a control panel at the operating station;

(d) The control panel includes—

(1) A power-available light;

(2) An audible alarm to notify crew at the operating station of fire and visible alarms to identify the zone or zones of origin of the fire;

(3) A means to silence audible alarms while maintaining indication by visible alarm;

(4) A circuit-fault detector test-switch; and

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(5) Labels for all switches and indicator lights, indicating their functions.

(e) The system is powered from two sources, switchover from the primary power source to the secondary source being either manual or automatic;

(f) The system is used for no other purpose; and

(g) The system is certified by a Registered Professional Engineer, or by a recognized classification society (under 46 CFR part 8), to meet the criteria listed in paragraphs (a) through (f) of this section.

[USCG–1998–4445, 64 FR 56266, Oct. 19, 1999, as amended by USCG 1998–4445, 65 FR 52047, Aug. 28, 2000]

## § 27.315 What are the requirements for internal communication on a new towing vessel?

(a) You must ensure that your vessel has a communication system between the engine room and operating station that—

(1) Is comprised of either fixed or portable equipment, such as a sound-powered telephone, portable radios, or other reliable voice communication method, with a main or reserve power supply that is independent of the electrical system on your towing vessel; and

(2) Provides two-way calling and voice communication between the operating station and either—

(i) The engine room; or

(ii) A location immediately adjacent to an exit from the engine room.

(b) Twin-screw vessels with operating station control for both engines are not required to have an internal communication system.

(c) When the operating station control station and the engine room access are within 3 meters (10 feet) of each other and allow unobstructed visual contact between them, direct voice communication is acceptable instead of a communication system.